

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Stimulating rays produced by a line light source
are linearly irradiated onto an area of a stimulable phosphor
sheet, on which a radiation image has been stored, the
stimulating rays causing the sheet to emit light in proportion
to an amount of energy stored thereon during its exposure
to radiation. Light emitted from the exposed linear area of
the sheet is received with a line sensor comprising
photoelectric conversion devices arrayed along each of a
length direction of the linear area of the stimulable phosphor
sheet and a direction normal to the length direction. The
sheet is moved with respect to the line light source and the
line sensor and in a direction different from the length
direction of the linear area of the sheet. Operation
processing is performed on outputs of the photoelectric
conversion devices, which outputs have been obtained at
respective positions of movement and correspond to an
identical site on the sheet.

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